

SITUATION REPORT NO. 8
INCIDENT NO. 99-009
DATE: April 14, 1999 TIME: 3:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding, has resulted in overland and river flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: Two people were injured when the vehicle in which they were traveling struck a road washout in Rolette County. The vehicle was totaled.
3. DAMAGES: Preliminary estimates by state and local officials indicate that about \$75 million in public and private damages could occur within the Devils Lake Basin if the lake rises to a projected high of 1,447.5 feet this summer. A revised forecast from the National Weather Service (NWS) calls for Devils Lake to rise up to 3 ½ feet this summer to 1,447 to 1,447.5 feet. The natural spill elevation between Devils Lake and Stump Lake is 1,446.6 feet; the current lake level measured 1,444.88 feet at Creel Bay on April 14. Spring runoff has already resulted in the closure of five county road sites at locations near the city of Churchs Ferry, Mauvais Coulee and Morrison Outlet. In Churchs Ferry, flood waters in the Mauvais Coulee are threatening a dike designed to protect the city's infrastructure. Officials are concerned that the Mauvais Coulee could also threaten the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad embankment located along U.S. Highway 2 south of Churchs Ferry. Officials for Churchs Ferry reported that flood waters had risen one foot during the past weekend.

Nelson County officials are concerned that spillover from Devils Lake could inundate N.D. Highway 1 near Stump Lake. The highway was elevated last year from 1,405 to 1,411.29 feet. Other flood-threatened roadways include County Roads 15, 23 and 24.

The Red River of the North crested at Pembina, its last North Dakota gauging point, on April 12 at about 49.5 feet; flood stage is 42 feet. The river still remained near its crest level on April 14. Upstream, the river measured 41.01 feet in Drayton, where the flood stage is 32 feet. The level at Grand Forks was 35.36 feet; flood stage is 28 feet. The river was below the 17-foot flood stage in Fargo, measuring 16.11 feet on April 14.

Red River flood waters resulted in the closure of the last route linking the city of Pembina to St. Vincent, MN. This road, which was closed April 10, was the last route open between Pembina County and Minnesota.

Flood waters have entered two homes in Rolette County; one homeowner reported up to three feet of water in the basement while the second homeowner had 1 ½ feet of water on the main floor. Floodwaters have isolated three homes and threaten to eliminate access to a fourth home. Officials reported 60 washouts have occurred on the county's road system. They are concerned that poor road conditions will be exacerbated by snowmelt.

In Towner County, 12 families are isolated with no access to their homes. One family is using a boat.

McIntosh County officials also reported that flood waters were causing road-related problems. Floodwaters have inundated some roads and have been washing road shoulders. Other roads are in danger of becoming inundated. Road crews are assessing the damages. The county's lakes are at

capacity and may overflow if the area receives additional precipitation.

A cost estimate to restore damaged facilities for Minnkota Power Cooperative from the April 1999 ice storm is \$2,150,000.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: As Red River flood waters recede, Grand Forks crews are removing sandbags from protected areas. Workers have placed barricades at haul roads.

In Pembina County, additional polyvinyl material was placed on the Main Street dike in Drayton. In the city of Pembina, flood waters have begun seeping into a ball field in the southern part of the city. A pump has been placed in that area. A dike in South Pembina was reinforced after it began bubbling. City officials are closely monitoring dikes. Sandbags have been filled and have been positioned for placement.

The Ramsey County Commission has asked the local floodplain administrator to raise the base flood elevation for the shoreline of Devils Lake from 1,450 to 1,455 feet.

Officials for Nelson County have been developing plans for road/culvert work on County Road 27, where a small culvert is located.

After receiving revised forecasts stating that Devils Lake could rise to a level above its natural spill elevation with Stump Lake, the Nelson County Commission and Ramsey County Commission issued emergency declarations. The city of Churchs Ferry in Ramsey County also issued an emergency declaration because of excessive runoff in the Mauvais Coulee, which flows into Devils Lake.

The McHenry, Rolette County Commissions and Turtle Mountain Tribal Council have also issued emergency declarations for damages caused by excessive spring runoff.

In Rolette and Towner Counties, public works crews are either flagging or closing flood-damaged roads and conducting repairs to those roads.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), St. Paul District, is providing technical assistance under Public Law (PL) 84-99.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as reported.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: USACE, Red Cross, consulting engineers and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director